



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Istook Takes a Stand Against Amnesty**

*Washington DC* – Rep. Ernest Istook (R-Warr Acres) joined Rep. John Sullivan (R-Tulsa), the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), and Hispanic anti-illegal immigration group You Don't Speak for Me to condemn the Senate's plan to grant amnesty to illegal aliens.

**"I am appalled at how out of touch so many people in Washington DC are on this whole issue,"** said Istook. **"I have the greatest respect for people who waited their turn and patiently waited and came to America, LEGALLY. They value it; they treasure their citizenship. That's what my grandparents did when they were immigrants to the United States. But people who steal their way into the country will not treasure being an American citizen."**

Regarding the current plan to grant amnesty to illegal aliens currently in the U.S., Istook said, **"If you tell someone who is here illegally that you can stay and that you can have a chance to become an citizen, then IT IS AMNESTY. I don't care how you gift-wrap it. I don't care what other terms you use. Whatever you call it, if you let people to stay here who came here illegally; and if you give them an opportunity to become citizens, it is amnesty. I am against it; the American people are against it; and they're right to be against it. Let's respect our laws; let's respect what it means to be an American. "**

Congressman Istook also pointed out the need for local and state cooperation in the fight against illegal immigration. **"It's not enough to strengthen the borders, because most people who are here illegally are no longer at the border. They're in the heartland. All across America we have public officials who are closer to the people and who are listening to the people. We have communities stepping up and saying we're going to be involved in helping to enforce the laws against illegals. We have some states that are stepping up and doing it. But here in Washington DC common sense seems to be lacking."**

Also attending the event were:

- **You Don't Speak for Me ([dontspeakforme.org](http://dontspeakforme.org)):** a group composed American Hispanics which opposes illegal immigration & amnesty and supports an enforcement-first approach to solving this problem.
- **FAIR (Federation for American Immigration Reform):** a nonprofit organization which seeks to improve border security, to stop illegal immigration, and to promote immigration levels consistent with the national interest.